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10/099,838	03/15/2002	Tetsuya Nishi	FUJA 19.543	5567

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EXAMINER
NASH, LASHANYA RENEE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2153	

DATE MAILED: 06/30/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	10/099,838	NISHI ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	LaShanya R. Nash	2153	

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address* --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _15 March 2002_.
2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.
3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
    closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _1-28_ is/are pending in the application.
    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6)☒ Claim(s) _1-28_ is/are rejected.
7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.
    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
    a)☒ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:
    1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
    3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
        application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-26 are pending.

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d),

which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35

U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this

Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by

Chueng-Hsein (European Patent Application EP 0967559), hereinafter

referred to as Chueng-Hsein.

In reference to claim 1, Chueng-Hsein explicitly discloses a system where

cache servers are employed in order to temporarily store information during the

transfer of content data between clients and provider server via interconnected

networks (e.g. Internet), so as to avoid both source and network overload

(abstract; paragraphs [0007]-[0008]). Chueng-Hsein further discloses:

- A data distribution system (Figure 1; paragraph [0010]-[0013]) comprising: a

  data distribution server (Figure 1-item 101; paragraph [0014]) for supplying

data to a user side (i.e. corporate LAN; Figure 1; paragraph [0015]) at least

one access server (i.e. Figure 1-item 500) provided on the user side and

transferring intended data to each user; and a network cache apparatus

(Figure 1-items 301, 302, 303, 501) provided in a network (i.e. Internet; Figure

1) wherein said data is distributed between said data distribution server and

said access server and having a cache function unit for temporarily storing

said data from said data distribution server (paragraphs [0022]-[0026]), and

an exchange function unit for routing the stored data to said access server

corresponding to a destination user (i.e. assigning cache servers to a serve

specific clients; paragraphs [0016]-[0018]).

In reference to claim 8, Chueng-Hsein explicitly discloses a data

distribution server (i.e. provider host) employed in the caching system as

discussed regarding claim 1. Chueng-Hsein further discloses:

- A data distribution server (Figure 1-item 101; paragraph [0014]) placed on

  outside of the network, receiving the data from the outside, temporarily

  holding this (Figure 1; paragraph [0010]-[0013]), communicating with the

  network cache apparatus (Figure 1-items 301, 302, 303, 501) provided in said

  network (i.e. Internet; Figure 1) for routing the held data to the user side (i.e.

  corporate LAN; Figure 1; paragraph [0015]), and distributing said data to a

  user (i.e. client; Figure 1-items 410, 411,412) outside said network (i.e.

  included in corporate LAN not Internet), (paragraphs [0016]-[0026]).

In reference to claim 13, Chueng-Hsein explicitly discloses a network cache apparatus (i.e. Figure 1-items 301, 302, 303, 501) employed in the caching system as discussed regarding claim 1. Chueng-Hsein further discloses:

- A network cache apparatus (i.e. Figure 1-items 301, 302, 303, 501; paragraphs [0010]-[0013]) comprising:

- A cache function unit linked with both a data distribution server (Figure 1-item 101; paragraph [0014]) for supplying data to the user side (i.e. corporate LAN; Figure 1; paragraph [0015]) and at least one access server (i.e. Figure 1-item 500) provided on the user side and transferring intended data to users for temporarily storing said data from said data distribution server (paragraphs [0022]-[0026]), and an exchange function unit for routing the stored data to said access server corresponding to the destination user(i.e. assigning cache servers to a serve specific clients; paragraphs [0016]-[0018]).

In reference to claim 22, Chueng-Hsein explicitly discloses a network access server (i.e. Figure 1-item 500) employed in the caching system as discussed regarding claim 1. Chueng-Hsein further discloses:

- An access server (i.e. Figure 1-item 500) placed outside of the network (i.e. included in corporate LAN and not Internet) communicating with the network cache apparatus (i.e. Figure 1-items 301, 302, 303, 501; paragraphs [0014]-[0015]) provided in said network for receiving the data from the outside and temporarily storing this and routing the stored data to the user side, fetching said data stored in the network cache apparatus,

and distributing this to the user, (paragraphs [0010]-[0013]; paragraphs [0016]-[0026]).

In reference to claim 4, Chueng-Hsein shows the system wherein, where there is only one network cache apparatus (Figure 1-item 501) in said network, said data distribution server is provided with a data transmitting unit for generating a packet for transmitting said data and adding a cache specifying address for specifying said network cache apparatus as a destination of transmission to the packet, and said network cache apparatus is provided with a routing unit for adding a distribution address for setting said access server to which said packet is to be distributed from the destination information contained in said packet to the packet when detecting said cache specifying address directed to itself and transmitting this to said access server side and thereby performs the distribution of said data, (paragraphs [0010]-[0026]).

In reference to claim 5, Chueng-Hsein shows the system wherein, where there are a plurality of said network cache apparatuses (Figure 1-items 301, 302,303) inside said network, said data distribution server is provided with a data transmitting unit for generating the packet for transmitting said data and adding a cache-specifying multi-cast address for specifying a plurality of said network cache apparatuses as the destination of transmission to the packet, and each said network cache apparatus further distributes said packet to said network cache apparatus of the next stage based on the cache-specifying multi-address

when detecting said cache-specifying multi-address containing the address of

itself and each network cache apparatus is provided with a routing unit for adding

a distribution address for setting said access server to which said packet is to be

distributed from the destination information contained in said packet to the packet

and transmitting this to said access server side and thereby performs the

distribution of said data, (paragraphs [0010]-[0026]).

In reference to claim 9, Chueng-Hsein shows the system wherein provision is

made of a data transmitting unit for generating a packet for transmitting said data

and adding a cache-specifying address for specifying said network cache

apparatus as the destination of transmission to the packet and adding a cache-

specifying multi-cast address for specifying a plurality of said network cache

apparatuses as the destination of transmission to the packet where there are a

plurality of said network cache apparatuses in said network, (i.e. assigning cache

servers to serve specific clients; paragraphs [0017]-[0021]).

In reference to claim 10, Chueng-Hsein shows the system wherein said data

transmitting unit is linked with a data access request receiving unit for accepting

a send request of said data from a data provider or an access request of said

data from the user and outputs information concerning at least a destination list

of the destination of distribution of said data and a valid term of the distribution

together with the related data from the data access request receiving unit,

(paragraphs [0010]-[0016]; [0022]-[0027]).

In reference to claim 11, Chueng-Hsein shows the system wherein provision
is further made of a data storage unit for storing said data and information output
from said data access request receiving unit for a certain valid term and said
stored data and information are transmitted from said data transmitting unit to
said network cache apparatus according to a send instruction, (paragraphs
[0007]-[0013]).

In reference to claim 15, Chueng-Hsein shows the system, wherein said
cache function unit has a routing unit for receiving said data and information
concerned with at least a distribution destination list of the data and a distribution
valid term thereof from said data distribution server and controlling a distribution
of the data to said access server corresponding to the user as the destination of
the distribution via said exchange function unit and a data storage unit for storing
the data from said routing unit for the constant valid term, (paragraphs [0017]-
[0021]).

In reference to claim 23, Chueng-Hsein shows the system wherein provision
is made of a data access request unit linked to the data distribution server placed
outside of said network and providing said data to be held by said network cache
apparatus and transmitting the access request to the data distribution server
when there is an access request of the data from said user with respect to the
data distribution server, (paragraph [0008]; paragraphs [0010]-[0015]).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for

all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Chueng-Hsein as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of

Shiota (US Patent 6,542,505), hereinafter referred to as Shiota.

In reference to claim 2, although Chueng-Hsein shows substantial

features of the invention, the reference fails to show the system wherein both

said data distribution server and network cache apparatus and both said network

cache apparatus and access server are <u>connected via an optical cross-connect</u>

<u>equipment or label switch</u> forming said exchange function unit of the network

cache equipment. Nonetheless, this would have been an obvious modification to

the system as disclosed by Chueng-Hsein, for one of ordinary skill in the art at

the time of invention, as further evidenced by Shiota.

In an analogous art, Shiota discloses a network apparatus with

server functionality that also functions as an optical cross-connect equipment

(e.g. ATM switch), (abstract). One of ordinary skill in the art would have readily

recognized the advantages associated with accordingly modifying the

aforementioned system, so as to couple multi-media servers and network

interfaces decreasing processing efficiency, (column 1, lines 10-16; column 1,

lines 55-60).

Claims 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Chueng-Hsein as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of

Yamamoto at al. (US Patent 6,392,991), hereinafter referred to Yamamoto.

In reference to claim 3, although Chueng-Hsein shows substantial

features of the invention, the reference fails to show the system wherein both

said data distribution server and network cache apparatus and both said network

cache apparatus and access server are connected via an optical cross-connect

equipment forming said exchange function unit of the network cache equipment.

Nonetheless, this would have been an obvious modification to the system as

disclosed by Chueng-Hsein, for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of

invention, as further evidenced by Shiota.

In an analogous art, Shiota discloses a network apparatus with

server functionality that also functions as an optical cross-connect equipment

(e.g. ATM switch), (abstract). One of ordinary skill in the art would have readily

recognized the advantages associated with accordingly modifying the

aforementioned system, so as to couple multi-media servers and network

interfaces decreasing processing efficiency, (column 1, lines 10-16; column 1,

lines 55-60). The references fail to show and said data is distributed by

wavelength multiplex transmission. However, this limitation was well known in the

art at the time of invention, as further evidenced by Yamamoto. Therefore, it

would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to accordingly to the

aforementioned system.

In an analogous art, Yamamoto discloses a communication network, node

apparatus used in the control of the network (abstract). Yamamoto further

discloses that wavelength multiplex transmission paths employed in the

communications network to distribute data, (column 2, lines 5-53). One of

ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the advantages associated

with accordingly modifying the aforementioned system, so as to connect a

plurality of terminals and node apparatuses, while preventing the communication

band from narrowing (Yamamoto column 7, lines 37-44).

**Claims 6-7, 11-12, 14, 16-21, and 24-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C.
103(a) as being unpatentable over Chueng-Hsein as applied to claims 1, 8,
13, and 22 above, and further in view of Dravida et al. (US Patent 5,253,248),
hereinafter referred to as Dravida.**

In reference to claims 6 and 12 although Chueng-Hsein shows substantial

features of the invention, the reference fails to show the system wherein said

data distribution server and is provided with a first congestion monitor indicating

unit for transmitting a first inquiry request command to the network cache

apparatus and inquiring about the congestion state thereof when said data must

be transmitted to said network cache apparatus, and said network cache

apparatus is provided with a first congestion monitor responding unit for receiving

said first inquiry request command, inquiring about the congestion state thereof, and returning the result to said congestion monitor indicating unit as a first inquiry response, and said data distribution server transmits said data when said first inquiry response indicates "no congestion". However, congestion monitoring was well known in the art at the time of invention, as further evidenced by Dravida. Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to accordingly to the system as disclosed by Chueng-Hsein.

In an analogous art, Dravida discloses a system for congestion control for traffic in data networks, (abstract). Dravida further discloses congestion monitor indicating unit for transmitting a first inquiry request command to the network cache apparatus and inquiring about the congestion state thereof when said data must be transmitted to said network cache apparatus, and said network cache apparatus is provided with a first congestion monitor (Figure 27-item 2740) responding unit for receiving said first inquiry request command, inquiring about the congestion state thereof, and returning the result to said congestion monitor indicating unit as a first inquiry response, and said data distribution server (i.e. node; Figure 27-item 2701) transmits said data when said first inquiry response indicates "no congestion" (i.e. route to a destination is selected in the absence of congestion; column 11). One of ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the advantages associated with accordingly modifying the aforementioned system, so as to avoid spreading congestion within the network and thereby prevents transmission inefficiency, (Dravida abstract).

In reference to claims 7, 14, 17, and 18 although Chueng-Hsein shows

substantial features of the invention, the reference fails to show the system

wherein said network cache apparatus is provided with a second congestion

monitor indicating unit for transmitting a second inquiry request command to the

access server and inquiring about the congestion state thereof when said data is

received from said data distribution server and the data must be transmitted to

said access server, said access server is provided with a second congestion

monitor responding unit for receiving said second inquiry request command,

inquiring about the congestion state thereof, and returning the result as a second

inquiry response to said second congestion monitor indicating unit, and said

network cache apparatus transmits said data when said second inquiry response

indicates "no congestion". However, congestion monitoring was well known in the

art at the time of invention, as further evidenced by Dravida. Therefore, it would

have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to accordingly to the system

as disclosed by Chueng-Hsein.

In an analogous art, Dravida discloses a system for congestion control for

traffic in data networks, (abstract). Dravida further discloses a congestion monitor

(Figure 27-item 2740) indicating unit for transmitting a second inquiry request

command to the access server and inquiring about the congestion state thereof

when said data is received from said data distribution server and the data must

be transmitted to said access server, said access server is provided with a

second congestion monitor responding unit for receiving said second inquiry

request command, inquiring about the congestion state thereof, and returning the

result as a second inquiry response to said second congestion monitor indicating

unit, and said network cache apparatus transmits said data when said second

inquiry response indicates "no congestion", (i.e. route to a destination is selected

in the absence of congestion; column 11).. One of ordinary skill in the art would

have readily recognized the advantages associated with accordingly modifying

the aforementioned system, so as to avoid spreading congestion within the

network and thereby prevents transmission inefficiency, (Dravida abstract).

In reference to claim 16 and 19 although Chueng-Hsein shows substantial

features of the invention, the reference fails to show the system wherein routing

unit creates a routing table listing a group of addresses of the distribution

destinations based on said information and specifies said user as the destination

of the distribution according to the routing table. However, routing tables were

well known in the art at the time of invention, as further evidenced by Dravida.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to

accordingly to the system as disclosed by Chueng-Hsein.

In an analogous art, Dravida discloses a system for congestion control for

traffic in data networks, (abstract). Dravida further discloses congestion monitor

creates a routing table, (column 11; Figure 27-items 2760; 2750), and

subsequently employed to route data to a selected non-congested path. One of

ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the advantages associated

with accordingly modifying the aforementioned system, so as to relieve potential

congestion on a network by routing portions of traffic on congested primary paths

onto predefined alternate paths, (Dravida abstract).

In reference to claim 20, Chueng-Hsein shows the system wherein said

cache function unit has a path setting request unit, and the path setting request

unit performs the route setting toward said user as the destination of distribution

specified according to said routing table with respect to said exchange function

unit, (paragraphs [0017]-[0026]).

In reference to claim 21, Chueng-Hsein shows the system wherein said

path setting request unit selectively performs said route setting with respect to

the access server (paragraph [0008]) for which said inquiry response indicates

"no congestion" among a plurality of said access servers (paragraphs [0017]-

[0026]); and Dravida shows that system prohibits (i.e. alternate path) the transfer

of said data to be distributed to the access server from said data distributing unit

with respect to an access server for which said inquiry response does not

indicate "no congestion", (column 11).

In reference to claims 24 and 25 although Chueng-Hsein shows

substantial features of the invention, the reference fails to show the system

wherein provision is made of a congestion monitor responding unit for performing

a related inquiry in response to an inquiry request of the congestion state from

said network cache apparatus and returning the result to the network cache

apparatus as the inquiry response; and An access server as set forth in claim 24,

wherein provision is made of a data receiving unit for receiving said data

transmitted from said network cache apparatus when said inquiry response is "no

congestion". However, congestion monitoring was well known in the art at the

time of invention, as further evidenced by Dravida. Therefore, it would have been

obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to accordingly to the system as

disclosed by Chueng-Hsein.

In an analogous art, Dravida discloses a system for congestion control for

traffic in data networks, (abstract). Dravida further discloses a congestion monitor

(Figure 27-item 2740) indicating unit for transmitting a second inquiry request

command to the access server and inquiring about the congestion state thereof

when said data is received from said data distribution server and the data must

be transmitted to said access server, said access server is provided with a

second congestion monitor responding unit for receiving said second inquiry

request command, inquiring about the congestion state thereof, and returning the

result as a second inquiry response to said second congestion monitor indicating

unit, and said network cache apparatus transmits said data when said second

inquiry response indicates "no congestion", (i.e. route to a destination is selected

in the absence of congestion; column 11). One of ordinary skill in the art would

have readily recognized the advantages associated with accordingly modifying

the aforementioned system, so as to avoid spreading congestion within the

network and thereby prevents transmission inefficiency, (Dravida abstract).

In reference to claim 26, Chueng-Hsein shows the system wherein

provision is made of a data storage unit for storing said data received at said

data receiving unit for a certain valid term, a data transmitting unit for transferring

the stored data toward said user side based on a send instruction from said data

access request transmitting unit, and a data distributing unit for distributing

transferred data corresponding to each user, (paragraphs [0010]-]-[0026]).

Claims 27 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Chueng-Hsein as applied to claim 1 above, and further in

view of Dugan et al. (US Patent 6,425,005), hereinafter referred to as Dugan.

In reference to claim 27, although Chueng-Hsein shows substantial features

of the invention, the reference fails to show the system giving said cache function

unit a duplex configuration, having each of an active cache function unit and a

standby cache function unit constantly execute transfer of a monitor packet with

said exchange function unit, and, when finding an abnormality in said active

cache function unit monitored by the monitor packet, switching to said standby

cache function unit to continue the distribution of said data. Nonetheless, these

limitations were well known in the art at the time of invention, as further

evidenced by Dugan. Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary

skill in the art at the time of invention to accordingly modify the system as

disclosed by Chueng-Hsein.

In an analogous art, Dugan discloses an apparatus of managing local

resources at service nodes in an intelligent network, (abstract). Dugan further

shows the apparatus comprises a node cache, wherein the cache function unit

has a duplex configuration (i.e. two caches; Figure 12(b)), having each of an

active cache function unit (i.e. hot cache; Figure 12(b)-item 771a) and a standby

cache function unit (i.e. standby cache; Figure 12(b)-item 771b) constantly

execute transfer of a monitor packet with said exchange function unit, and, when

finding an abnormality in said active cache function unit monitored by the monitor

packet, switching to said standby cache function unit to continue the distribution

of said data, (column 25, lines 28-65). One of ordinary skill in the art would have

readily recognized the advantages associated with accordingly modifying the

aforementioned system, so as to provide redundancy thereby supporting

continued caching functionality in the event of a cache unit malfunction, (Dugan

column 40-65).

In reference to claim 28, although Chueng-Hsein shows substantial features

of the invention, the reference fails to show the system wherein, when there are

three or more network cache apparatuses inside said network, all network cache

apparatuses are made able to set two or more transmission lines connected to

two or more other network cache apparatuses, a failure monitor means for

monitoring for failure of a transmission line is provided in said exchange function

unit in each said network cache apparatus, and, when detecting the occurrence

of said failure by the failure monitor means, the related failure transmission line is

switched to another transmission line and the distribution of said data is continued. Nonetheless, these limitations were well known in the art at the time of invention, as further evidenced by Dugan. Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to accordingly modify the system as disclosed by Chueng-Hsein.

In an analogous art, Dugan discloses an apparatus of managing local resources at service nodes in an intelligent network, (abstract). Dugan further shows the apparatus comprises a node cache, wherein monitoring for failure of a transmission line (e.g. checks to see if still up and functioning) is provided in said exchange function unit in each said network cache apparatus, and, when detecting the occurrence of said failure by the failure monitor means, the related failure transmission line is switched to another transmission line (e.g. switches from hot cache to standby cache) and the distribution of said data is continued, (column 25, lines 28-65). One of ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the advantages associated with accordingly modifying the aforementioned system, so as to provide redundancy thereby supporting continued caching functionality in the event of a cache unit malfunction, (Dugan column 40-65).
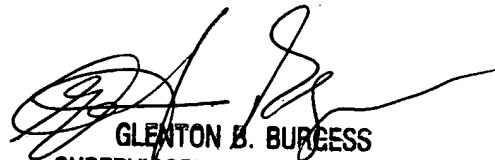
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LaShanya R Nash whose telephone number is (571) 272-3957. The examiner can normally be reached on 9am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenton Burgess can be reached on (571) 272-3949. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LaShanya Nash
Art Unit, 2153
June 24, 2005

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